

From: Allan Folz
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:25pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am writing to express my dissent with the proposed Microsoft Antitrust settlement. The area I find it most lacking is assurances to the non-commercial developer community (GNU/Linux, Apache, sendmail, etc.) that they will be able to write software that interoperates with Microsoft products, and likewise Microsoft products will not be written so as to actively interfere with non-commercial software. This has demonstrably happened in the past, the most notorious of which was Windows 95 interference with the LILO boot loader program.

In fact, the whole judgement is geared towards commercial interests, the systems and procedures commercial interests share in common, and the financial redress commercial interests can objectively compute. The non-commercial community has its own unique characteristics and requirements that don't easily follow with those of commercial interests. However, the non-commercial software community is so vital to the high-tech economy and society of modern America that putting in place the special rules required of it is just as important as those required of commercial interests.

Sincerely,

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These views are my own and should in no way be construed as necessarily endorsed by my employer.